

(a) whether attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "SSIs demand parity with large units" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated January 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the parity demand of Small Scale Industries with large units; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The parity demanded in the news item is mainly with regard to the availability of cheaper credit as small units now pay guarantee commission charges at the rate of 2.5% over and above the interest rate. According to Reserve Bank of India, guarantee cover is obtained in respect of small units as no security is available. Banks, therefore, safeguard their interest by taking DICGC cover. This also additionally encourages banks to extend loan to SSIs. Besides, demand has been made for providing credit without collateral security. As per Reserve Bank of India guidelines/norms, for loans upto Rs. 25,000 collateral security/third party guarantee should not be taken.

Imposition of Export Obligation Condition on Foreign Investment

52. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to make export obligation as a pre-condition for foreign investment as in the case of some South-East and East Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government are aware that foreign investors do not export sizeable commodities manufactured in the country as per their export commitments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the present policy, foreign investors who propose to take up manufacturing in India of the 22 specified industries in the consumer goods sector, have to meet the condition of dividend balancing. Further, export obligation is also imposed where a foreign equity participation in a Small Scale Industry (SSI) unit exceeds 24% or a non-SSI unit proposes to manufacture an item reserved for SSI. Export Oriented Units with foreign investment are also obliged to export entire production, except sale in the domestic tariff area as admissible under the Exim Policy.

(c) to (e) The foreign investors are obliged to export their manufactured products as per export obligation under the relevant scheme. Their export performance is monitored by the concerned Departments/Agencies of the Government of India and appropriate penal action is taken in cases of default as per prescribed norms

Dearness Allowance

53. SHRI K.H. MONIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one more instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due for the Union Government employees from January 1, 1997 due to the sharp increase in the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the D.A. would be announced/sanctioned by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the existing formula relating to the grant to dearness allowance to the Central Government employees, additional instalments of dearness allowance become due from 1st January and 1st July every year on the basis of percentage increase in the 12th monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (1960=100) over the base index of 608. The instalment due from 1st January normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of March, paid in April

Conversion of I.R.B.I.

54. LT. GEN. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have converted the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) into a company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to the Government and other shareholders in the IRBI as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) An Ordinance to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertakings of the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India to and in the Company to be formed and registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India Act, 1984 was promulgated on 24th January, 1997. Necessary action for introduction of the Bill to this effect in the current session of Parliament is being taken.

Coal Linkage for Power Plants

55. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) the number of coal based power plants in the country;

(b) whether the proposal to provide coal linkage for some power plants are pending for the approval of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of such

proposals approved during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) by the when the remaining proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The number of existing coal based power plants in the country are 74.

(b) and (c) There are 8 proposals for consideration of coal linkage, for which final decisions have not been taken.

The no. of proposals for which coal linkage has been approved in the past 3 years, statewide is as given under :

	1996	1995	1994
West Bengal	1	-	2
Orissa	1	1	-
U.P.	1	1	-
Bihar	-	-	1
M.P.	2	6	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	1
Mizoram	1	-	-
Maharashtra	-	-	3
Gujarat	1	-	2
Andhra Pradesh	3	-	-
	10	8	9

(d) Clearance of proposal will depend upon decision of Standing Linkage Committee meetings held periodically after examining the feasibility of linkage in consultation with coal companies, Ministry of Railway and other details on the thermal power stations furnished by CEA/Ministry of Power.

Public Sector Undertakings

56. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings are likely to be categorised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Public Sector Undertakings have been categorised into 4 Schedules, namely, Schedule 'A', Schedule 'B', Schedule 'C' and Schedule 'D' taking into consideration various quantitative and qualitative factors like investment (paid up capital plus long term loans), capital employed, net sales, profitability, number of employees, number of units, national importance, complexities of problems, level of technology employed, prospects for expansion/diversification, competition from other sectors, etc. At present there are 42 Schedule 'A', 89 Schedule 'B', 64 Schedule 'C' and 13 Schedule 'D' companies.

Foreign Investment

57. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's decision to expand the list of industries where automatic approvals of foreign equity are permitted has had any impact on the flow of foreign investment in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Since the expansion of the list of industries for automatic approval for foreign investment has been done recently vide Press Note No. 2 dt. 17.1.97, it is premature to comment on its immediate impact on the inflow of foreign investment.

Weigh-bridges on Railway Siding

58. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway siding in Bharat Coking Coal Limited with weighbridges on it,

(b) the number of electronic weighbridges out of it alongwith the number of such electronic weighbridges which are in working condition;

(c) whether the Government are aware that coal is being sold from these bridges without weighing; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check it and punish the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Coal India Ltd. have reported that no siding in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., (BCCL) has any Railway weighbridge. Most of the wagons are being weighed in the Railway yard which cater to the needs of different sidings under the command area of that yard. However, BCCL have installed 23 weighbridges either in Railway yards or in different sidings. Out of this, 22 weighbridges are electronic. All of these weighbridges are presently reported to be operational.

(c) Except when there is breakdown of weighbridges all the coal rakes passing through the weighbridges in BCCL are weighed before despatch.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) above.

Special Courts

59. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special courts for early disposal of corruption cases in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such courts are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) Under Section 3 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 the Central Government or the State